CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1	1.	A method of coordinating resources to complete a design project, said method
2	comprising:	
3		prioritizing tasks to create a project plan;
4		automatically notifying resources of task responsibilities and associated due dates based on
5	said project plan through the use of encryption keys;	
6		controlling access to said design data through the use of said encryption keys assigned to
7 	said resources;	
8 51		automatically monitoring work being performed on said tasks through a computerized
9 🚉	network; and	
10 1		automatically notifying a project team leader of task completion status, overdue tasks, and
5 6 7 8 9 10	tasks being ignored, based on said monitoring.	
8, **		
1	2.	The method in claim 1, wherein said monitoring includes observing whether a resource is
2	active	ly working on a task exclusively by observing network activity of said resource.
1	3.	The method in claim 1, further comprising automatically scheduling a meeting of all

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corresponding resources if a task becomes overdue.

- The method in claim 1, further comprising producing periodic status reports based on said
 monitoring.
- The method in claim 1, further comprising automatically notifying said resources of
 additional tasks as prerequisite tasks are completed.
- 1 6. The method in claim 1, further comprising automatically searching for additional resources
 2 for tasks that are overdue.
 - 7. The method in claim 1, wherein said monitoring comprises a polling function.
 - 8. A method of coordinating resources to complete a design project, said method comprising:
 - identifying tasks that must be finished to complete said design project based on design data;
- 5 assigning said tasks to a plurality of resources;
- 6 prioritizing said tasks based on dependency between said tasks to create a project plan;
- 7 storing said project plan and said design data in a database;
 - automatically notifying said resources of corresponding task responsibilities and associated due dates based on said project plan through the use of encryption keys;
- 10 controlling access to said design data through the use of said encryption keys assigned to
 11 said resources;

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- automatically monitoring work being performed on said tasks through a computerized network; and
- automatically notifying a project team leader of task completion status, overdue tasks, and tasks being ignored, based on said monitoring.
- 1 9. The method in claim 8, wherein said monitoring includes observing whether a resource is 2 actively working on a task exclusively by observing network activity of said resource.
- 1 10. The method in claim 8, further comprising automatically scheduling a meeting of all corresponding resources if a task becomes overdue.

 1 1 11. The method in claim 8, further comprising producing periodic status reports based of the comprising periodic status reports because of the comprising periodic s
- 1 11. The method in claim 8, further comprising producing periodic status reports based on said

 monitoring.

 12. The method in claim 8, further comprising automatically notifying said resources of
 - 12. The method in claim 8, further comprising automatically notifying said resources of additional tasks as prerequisite tasks are completed.
- 1 13. The method in claim 8, further comprising automatically searching for additional resources 2 for tasks that are overdue.
 - 14. The method in claim 8, wherein said monitoring comprises a polling function.

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1 15. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of 2 instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for coordinating resources to 3 complete a design project, said method comprising:

prioritizing tasks to create a project plan;

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automatically notifying resources of task responsibilities and associated due dates based on said project plan through the use of encryption keys;

controlling access to said design data through the use of said encryption keys assigned to said resources;

automatically monitoring work being performed on said tasks through a computerized network; and

automatically notifying a project team leader of task completion status, overdue tasks, and tasks being ignored, based on said monitoring.

- 16. The program storage device in claim 15, wherein said monitoring includes observing whether a resource is actively working on a task exclusively by observing network activity of said resource.
- 1 17. The program storage device in claim 15, wherein said method further comprises 2 automatically scheduling a meeting of all corresponding resources if a task becomes overdue.
 - 18. The program storage device in claim 15, wherein said method further comprises producing periodic status reports based on said monitoring.

- 1 19. The program storage device in claim 15, wherein said method further comprises
- 2 automatically notifying said resources of additional tasks as prerequisite tasks are completed.
- 1 20. The method in claim 15, wherein said method further comprises automatically searching
- 2 for additional resources for tasks that are overdue.